

## **REPRESENTATIVE DRIEHAUS PRAISES HOUSE PASSAGE OF LANDMARK EDUCATION BILL**

### ***Legislation Includes Driehaus Measure to Promote Education for Unemployed Workers***

**WASHINGTON, DC**—Representative Steve Driehaus today praised passage in the U.S. House of Representatives of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, legislation that would greatly expand higher educational opportunities and that includes a measure introduced by Rep. Driehaus. The bill would simplify, expand, and strengthen federal loan programs for families and students, saving taxpayers \$87 billion over ten years.

The legislation also includes a measure introduced by Rep. Driehaus that would expand access to federal education grants for unemployed workers. Rep. Driehaus's amendment would require states applying for State Innovative Completion Grants to specify how funding would be used to promote post-secondary education among dislocated workers. [Rep. Driehaus spoke in support of his measure on the House floor earlier today](#)

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"If we're serious about investing in the future of our economy and creating 21st century jobs, then we need to make sure Americans have the training and education they need. This legislation will provide new opportunities for people seeking to continue their education, and help to provide our existing workforce with the skills and resources that a modern economy demands," said Rep. Driehaus.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act would increase funding for Pell Grants to \$5,500 in 2010 and to \$6,900 by 2019. Additionally, the bill would link increases in Pell Grant scholarships to match rising cost of living. The bill would invest in college access and completion programs to help retain and graduate students. The legislation would strengthen affordable federal student loan programs and keep interest rates low. It would also simplify the application process for student loans. The legislation would also establish a new Direct Loan program to originate all new federal student loans, saving taxpayers \$87 billion over ten years.

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